

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 /102 W  
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R 061306Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5897

CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJ: JOINT U.S. MISSION GOE NARCOTICS MEETING, SEPTEMBER 4

REF: QUITO 5413

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO AMBASSADOR'S AUGUST 15 MEETING WITH MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT POVEDA (REFTEL), MISSION MEMBERS HELD FIRST JOINT MEETING WITH GOE ON SEPTEMBER 4 TO DISCUSS NARCOTICS MATTERS. PARTICIPATION ON U.S. SIDE INCLUDED DCM, NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, AID CUSTOMS NARCOTICS ADVISOR, AND DEA SAIC. ON GOE SIDE, MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY COORDINATOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT. ALSO ATTENDING WERE THE CHIEF OF THE NARCOTICS SERVICE, HIS DEPUTY, AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CUSTOMS POLICE.

2. SINCE MEETING WAS FIRST OF ITS KIND, AGENDA WAS CONFINED MOSTLY TO STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS INFORMAL GROUP WOULD MEET ONCE A MONTH AT THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT TO ENGAGE IN A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT, WHILE MEETING WOULD NOT BE CONDUCTED  
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ACCORDING TO ANY RIGID AGENDA, FIRST 10 TO 15 MINUTES

OF EACH SESSION WOULD BE DEVOTED TO A BRIEFING ON SOME ASPECT OF THE LOCAL NARCOTICS SITUATION LIKELY TO BE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE GROUP. BRIEFING AT NEXT MONTH'S MEETING WILL BE BY THE CHIEF OF THE NARCOTICS SERVICE ON THE SUBJECT OF AMENDMENTS TO THE ECUADOREAN NARCOTICS LAW WHICH WERE PROMULGATED ON SEPTEMBER 3. MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT COORDINATOR (COLONEL GUSTAVO VACA) ALSO SUGGESTED, AND WE AGREED, TO DEVOTE PART OF EACH OF THE NEXT THREE MONTHLY MEETINGS TO A REVIEW OF THE POLICE PROGRAM AGREEMENT OBJECTIVES IN ORDER TO ASSESS PRECISELY WHICH OBJECTIVES WERE BEING ACHIEVED AND WHERE WE HAD FALLEN SHORT. VACA ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD INVITE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO ATTEND OUR NEXT SESSION.

3. COMMENT: IT IS OBVIOUSLY FAR TOO EARLY FOR US TO ASSESS THE UTILITY OF THESE INFORMAL MONTHLY NARCOTICS MEETINGS TO WHICH THE GOE HAS AGREED AT OUR SUGGESTION. WE ARE NONEHTLESS ENCOURAGED BY THE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH SEPTEMBER 3 MEETING TOOK PLACE AND BY WHAT APPEARS TO BE A WILLINGNESS ON COLONEL VACA'S PART AT LEAST, TO ENGAGE A REALLY FRANK DIALOGUE. WHILE WE DO NOT WANT TO SET OUR HOPES TOO HIGH, WE ALSO THINK THAT ONE USEFUL SIDE EFFECT OF THESE MEETINGS MIGHT BE THE FACT OF GREATER WORKING LEVEL CONTACT BETWEEN THE CUSTOMS POLICE AND THE NARCOTICS POLICE THAN THERE HAS BEEN IN THE PAST.  
BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SNAR, EC, US, (POVEDA)  
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